Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1440

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 1589

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON: EXIMBANK PRESIDENT CASEY

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CG EFIN SUBJECT: SMTF

1. IN MY JUDGMENT IT IS CRUCIAL FOR OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION IN ZAIRE THAT CONCEIVABLE FAILURE OF SMTF PROJECT NOT BE LAID AT US DOOR. WHILE I HAVE NO DESIRE COMPLICATE CURRENT EXIMBANK NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMTF WHICH U UNDERSTAND RELATE TO NEEDED FINANCIAL GUARANTEES, I URGE YOU TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE. ENTIRE POSITION HERE MAY COLLAPSE WHATEVER WE DO, IN WHICH CASE DISBURSEMENTS COULD AND SHOULD BE WITHHELD. BUT WE DON'T WANT TO TRIGGER BREAK BY MAKING MISTAKE ON MAJOR PRODUCTIVE PROJECT WHICH QUITE POSSIBLY COULD BE PUSHED FORWARD ON ENCLAVE BASIS IN ALMOST ALL BUT THE WORST IMAGINABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. PRESIDENT MOBUTU LAST WEEK AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO SMTF BY FINALLY SIGNING LONG-STANDING INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT COFACE, ALTHOUGH OTHERWISE NO LONGER WRITING EXPORT GUARANTEES FOR ZAIRE, WILL NOW ISSUE THE GUARANTEES FOR FRENCH SHARE OF SMTF. IN ADDITION BRITISH AMBASSADOR TELLS ME THE ECGD HAS JUST AGREED INCREASE AMOUNT OF THEIR GUARANTEE. WHILE STORM SIGNALS ARE DEFINITELY FLYING, THIS IS, I REPEAT, NO TIME FOR EXIM TO OVER-NEGOTIATE. CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MINING INDUSTRY, DEVELOPMENT LOANS, INVESTMENT GUARANTEES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975 Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA01589

Document Number: 1975KINSHA01589
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750064-0844

From: KINSHASA Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750219/aaaaaqyf.tel Line Count: 61

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION SS Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 29 AUG 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE Subject: SMTF TAGS: EFIN, CG, SMTF To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006